Welcome to Understanding COMPASS and Your Test Scores. Have you or your child taken the COMPASS test and gotten the scores back but didn’t know what they meant? Are you confused about how these scores will affect your college going future? Are you getting ready to take the COMPASS test and want to know beforehand what your scores will mean? If you said yes to any of these statements this guide is for you.

Before we look at your scores here are a few things you should know.

- You do not pass or fail the COMPASS test; instead your scores will be used to indicate what areas you are strong in and what areas you might be weak in and could improve on by taking remedial courses.
- The state of Ohio considers a COMPASS score of 69 or above in English (Writing) or a COMPASS score of 65 or above in Algebra is considered college-ready in Ohio. Currently they do not have a measurement for COMPASS reading scores but generally a COMPASS score of 65 or above in Algebra is considered college-ready.
- General Recommendations Section – this tells you which courses the college recommends based on your test scores and provides additional help information. It is strongly advised that you meet with your college advisor and discuss which courses you need for your educational goals.
  - Recommendations will be different for every college. A score of 45 in Algebra might qualify you for Intermediate Algebra at one college and Pre-Algebra at another.
- Initial domain – if you take several tests in a subject area this will be the first level you tested in that certain subject area.
- Placement domain - the last level you tested in that certain subject area.
  - If you only take one test in a subject area, it will be your placement domain.
  - Whatever test level has “placement domain” in the notes is the score that colleges will use to determine your skill level and find appropriate courses for you.

For Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPASS Math Placement Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Placement Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Algebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Each score you get and each test level you complete in a subject area contributes to which test level is chosen as your final placement domain.
- COMPASS has a pre-determined amount of answers that you have to get correct for it to move on to the next test level.
  - Each college provides input as to the amount of answers that need to be correct.
For Example:

![Sample COMPASS Individual Report](image)

**Now let's take a look at a sample of a COMPASS Individual Report.** Your report will look something like this, but not exactly the same as all tests are set-up differently per college. At the top of the page it will show your basic information; your name, your address, and the date you took the test etc.

![Sample COMPASS Math Placement Test](image)

A little bit further down the page you will find a section that says “COMPASS Math Placement Test”. It should look something like this.
The first score listed is in Pre-Algebra and this individual got a score of 79. As we learned before, each score we get and each test level we complete in a subject area contributes to which test level is chosen as our final placement domain and our placement domain is the score that will be used to determine if we will need additional college courses. In this example the individual’s score of 79 meant they had a good understanding of this subject area and COMPASS started to test them in the next level, Algebra.

Next you will notice the score of 45 in Algebra and that it is the last level that this individual was tested in. The individual’s score of 45 meant they did not have as good of an understanding in this subject area and so COMPASS did not move on to test them at the next level. If this individual had done well in Algebra there would have been scores from College Algebra and Trigonometry as well. If you only scored in Pre-Algebra you would not be considered college-ready.

Now let’s look at the section that says” COMPASS Reading Placement Test”. It should look something like this.

In this example the individual got a score of 70 and under the general recommendations it says that a “reading class is not required”. The score of 70 meant that the individual had a good understanding of this subject area because no reading class was required. This individual is considered college-ready in reading.
Now let’s look at the section that says “COMPASS Writing Placement Test”. It should look something like this.

![COMPASS Writing Skills Placement Test](image)

In this example the individual got a score of 46 and under the general recommendations it says that an introductory course is recommended. The score of 46 meant that the individual had a satisfactory level understanding in this subject area but they could use a refresher introductory course. This individual was not considered college-ready in writing.

**So you have reviewed your scores and now what?**

**Did you score college-ready?** If yes, Great! Some things to keep in mind until you start college:

- Maintain your college-ready status by taking Honors, AP or college-level high school courses while in high school. Taking college-level and AP courses in high school can give you a good idea what to expect in the college classroom.
- Read up on developing good study habits and time management.
- Participate in summer programs and camps – keep that brain working!

**Were some of your scores a little less than perfect and not college-ready?** If yes, that’s ok, there is still time to improve before you start college. Some things to do before you start college:

- Take difficult courses - Taking phys ed and choir might boost your high school GPA and make your senior year more fun, but choosing easy courses over difficult ones won’t boost your college readiness.
- Ask for assistance with tough subjects – teachers will often lend a hand or ask for a tutor.
- Checkout our COMPASS Prep web site – it offers great tips and techniques that will help improve your COMPASS test scores.
- Check out the COMPASS web site – it offers sample test questions and test taking tips [http://www.act.org/compass/student/index.html](http://www.act.org/compass/student/index.html)